Keywords: early career, science, discovery research, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), experimental medicine, humanities and social science, health sciences, and public health

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Funding amount and duration of funding: Salary and up to £400,000 for research expenses over 5 years

Funder deadline: 1 October 2025, 17:00 GMT

UCT Intention to Submit deadline: Please complete UCT's intention-to-submit form **1 August 2025** to help us ensure timely submission of your completed application.

UCT internal deadlines: Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **required** prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:
- Your finance staff will be automatically contacted when your complete and submit the intention-to-submit form
- eRA Internal Approvals forms should reach the Finance Approver step by no later than **2 September 2025.**
- Faculty approved eRA forms must reach RC&I by **23 September 2025.**

Contacts: Faculty of Health Sciences: FHS.ResearchFunding@uct.ac.za **Other Faculties -** internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

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The Wellcome Early-Career Awards scheme is soliciting applications from early-career researchers from any discipline who are ready to develop their research identity. Through innovative projects, awardees will deliver shifts in understanding that could improve human life, health, and wellbeing.

By the end of the award, successful candidates will be equipped to lead their own independent research programme. Research proposals may be in any discipline - including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), experimental medicine, humanities and social science, clinical/allied health sciences, and public health - as long as it has the potential to improve human life, health and wellbeing, and aligns with the Wellcome Trust's funding remit.

Award details:
- Grants are available for up to five years, but this may be less for some disciplines, and longer if held on a part-time basis.
- Applicants may request salary and up to £400,000 for research expenses.
- More information regarding allowable and non-allowable costs can be found here.

Eligibility:

The call is open to early-career researchers who:

- Hold a PhD or have completed four years' equivalent research experience; and
- Are ready to design, plan, and deliver their own innovative project that aims to:
    - Advance understanding in their field, and/or
    - Develop methodologies, conceptual frameworks, tools, or techniques that could benefit health-related research
- Please review the Wellcome's Eligibility and Suitability criteria to confirm your individual eligibility.

Deadlines & submission process:

This proposal requires the PI to complete an online application on the funder portal (Wellcome Funding platform) as well as requesting institutional approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system, prior to submission of the application.

Important: The call has 3 submission rounds per year, with deadlines in February, May & October 2025. Submission timelines for the October deadlines will be communicated once finalised.

	May Round (closed)	October Round
PI to initiate an eRA proposal approval request and alert their faculty finance staff of the budget support needed	**17 March 2025**	**1 August 2025**
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer step on eRA at least **4 weeks** before the funder deadline		**2 September 2025**
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least **2 weeks** before the funder deadline		**16 September 2025**
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least **1 week** before the funder deadline		**23 September 2025**
Funder deadline: Final submission actioned by RC&I via the funder's portal.		**01 October 2025**

Contact information:

- o   Health Sciences applicants contact FHS.ReserachFunding@uct.ac.za
- o   All other faculties contact internationalgrants@uct.ac.za